

5th Speed Post

No.44018/26/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

New Delhi, the 25th October, 2006

To,
Ms. Madhumita Dutta,
H-19/4 Gangai Street,
Kalakshetra Colony,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai-600 090.

Subject: Request for information under Right To Information Act,
2005

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 5th September, 2006 and to provide the information as detailed.

- i) & ii) India is a signatory to the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent in relation to trade in hazardous chemicals. The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has a proposal under consideration to include the Chrysotile form of Asbestos in its ambit. In view of the economic implications of the proposal and large number of employment in this sector of industry the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has entrusted the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad which is the Institution under Indian Council of Medical Research to undertake a study on health / environmental hazards resulting from the use of Chrysotile form of Asbestos in the country. Based on the results of the study with reference to the Indian conditions an assessment / decision on continuation of the use of this industry chemical / inclusion of same in PIC ambit can be considered.

- iii) The total cost of the study comes to Rs.59.66 lakhs out of which the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has to contribute Rs.43.66 lakhs and balance Rs.16 lakhs is being contributed by the industry.

- iv) The scope and the methodology of the study to be taken by NIOH were examined in detail~~ed~~ and the course of action finalized in a meeting which was held under the Chairpersonship of Director Chemicals on 16th June, 2005. A copy of the minutes is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

P.S. Singh

(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel: 23070712

Encl: as above.

C&PC

①

Shri Kallash Nath,
Facilitation Officer
D/o C&PC

101

An Environmental cum Epidemiological survey in and around Chrysotile Asbestos based Industries

Status of the project: New

Duration of the project: 4 years from date of commencement

Background:

A request from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India was received regarding a survey in relation to the hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country. Consequently in consultation of the scientists of National Institute of Occupational Health and the concerned Under Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers it was decided that an environmental cum epidemiological study would be carried out in and around the following industries (organized sectors) in the following sequence:

- Asbestos cement industry manufacturing asbestos cement sheets
- Asbestos industry manufacturing asbestos containing friction materials
- Asbestos cement industry manufacturing asbestos cement pipes
- Asbestos textile industry

Methodology:

An environmental as well as epidemiological study will be carried out involving the workers of the representative organizations of the aforesaid industries. An assessment of the population residing around these factories will also be undertaken.

Environmental Study:

Fiber concentrations in the workplaces as well as in the vicinity of the factories will be evaluated.

Epidemiological Study:

Study settings:

This study will be undertaken in different representative industries of the above said sectors. Representative samples of population residing in the vicinity of these industries will be included in this study.

Sample size:

A total of 1500 subjects will be included in this study as the study subjects.

Study parameters:

Every individual subject will be interviewed with a pre-designed questionnaire to collect information in relation to personal, occupational and morbidity details of the workers.

Lung function test will be carried out in all subjects

All the study subjects will be evaluated by radiological examination as per ILO guidelines

Statistical analysis:

Collected data will be analyzed by using Epi Info 6 and SPSS 6.1.4 software.

Budget (Rupees):

Manpower involvement	1833000
Costs towards environmental and medical examination (25% overhead)	1000000
TA/DA	1000000
Contingency	300000
Intellectual fees	1833000
Total project cost	5966000

No.44018/26/2005-Ch.1
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

New Delhi, the 13rd December, 2006

To,
Ms. Madhumita Dutta,
H-19/4 Gangai Street,
Kalakshetra Colony,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai-600 090.

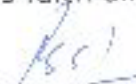
Subject: Request for information under Right To Information Act,
2005

Madam,

Please refer to your letter dated 3rd November 2006 in relation to the study of health hazards - environment hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country. Please find enclosed the following documents:

- i) A copy of the revised proposal dated 22nd June, 2005 received from NIOH
- ii) Terms of Reference of the study / scope of the study as detailed in the Work Order dated 24th April, 2006.
- iii) NIOH will be undertaking the study in consultation with various concerned stakeholders and will also be visiting the industrial units using chrysotile asbestos.

Yours faithfully,


(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel.23070712

Encl: as above.

Shri Kallash Nath, Facilitation Officer
D/o C&PC

No.40018/9/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 4th May, 2005

To
Dr. H.N. Saiyed,
Director,
National Institute of Occupational Health,
Meghani Nagar,
Ahmedabad- 380016.

Subject: Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures Study of Health Hazards / Environmental Hazardous resulting from use of Chrysolite variety of Asbestos in the country.

Sir,

This is in continuation of letter of even number dated the 19th April, 2005 on the subject mentioned above (a copy of same is enclosed for ready reference).

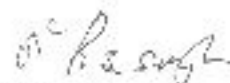
2. Your proposal is under consideration in the Department. While we are awaiting your response to the letter dated 19th April, 2005 we would appreciate if you could provide information on the following points w.r.to your proposal.

1) It is mentioned that "Fibre concentration in the workplace will be evaluated by membrane filter method using phase contrast optical microscopy as per ILO and AIA guidelines. From this it is observed that NIOH would not be measuring fibre concentration in the general environment, namely, around factory sites, public places etc. In this connection your attention is invited to the terms of reference for the proposed study as forwarded vide this office letter No.40018/32-99-Ch.I dated 5th November, 2004. In addition to exposure to the workers within the factory premises, health status of users and general public needs also be assessed. This would help to assess whether the general public is at any stage exposed to any health risk from usage of Chrysotile based products. Also please advice whether the units from SSI scheme of the industry are included in study ambit.

- 4°
- ii) Epidemiological study: It is mentioned that study will be undertaken in different representative (organized sector) industries of Asbestos Cement Sheets, Asbestos Cement Pipes, Friction Materials and Asbestos textiles. About sample size as earlier intimated the main usage of Chrysotile Asbestos is by AC sheet industry. You are requested to distribute the sample size (800 as proposed) among various segments of the industry depending upon their size. As per reports almost 80% of usage is by AC sheet industry.
 - (i) About the statistical analysis you are requested to comment on the variety of usage of statistical model for analysis for the individual sector could be quite low.

3. We will appreciate your early response.

Yours faithfully,



(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel. 23070712

E-mail usc.epc@sh.nic.in

Copy to:

1. Mr. Asim Saha, Sr. Research Officer, National Institute of Occupational Health, Meghkhani Nagar, Ahmedabad- 380016.
2. Brigadier A.K. Serhi, Adviser, The Asbestos Cement Products Manufacturers' Association, 807, Place, New Delhi-110019



Fax

Speed Post

168

भारत सरकार
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 रसायन और खनिज मंत्रालय
 MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
 रसायन और पेट्रोकेमिकल विभाग
 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS
 शास्त्री भवन, डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड,
 SHASTRI BHAVAN, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD ROAD,
 नई दिल्ली 110 004
 NEW DELHI - 110004

No.40018/3/2005-Ch.I
 Dated, the 24th April, 2006

To,
 The Director,
 National Institute of Occupational Health(NIOH),
 P.B. No.2031, Meghani Nagar,
 Ahmedabad -380 016
 (Fax No. # 079-22666352) - 22686110

Subject: Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures - Study of Health Hazards/Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.NIOH/Hyg/Proj/05/1125 dated 22nd June,2005 on the subject mentioned above and to convey the approval of the competent authority to award to your Institute undertake study on health hazards/environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country. The study would be subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) The objective of the study is to conduct an environment-cum-epidemiological study to examine the effect on health and environment in the country resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos and is in specific relation to the proposal for inclusion of this variety of asbestos in the ambit of Rotterdam Convention on PIC. ✓
- (b) The scope of the environment study is to examine
 - i) the four segments of the industry i.e. Asbestos cement industry manufacturing asbestos cement sheets; Asbestos cements industry manufacturing asbestos cement pipes; Asbestos industry manufacturing asbestos containing friction materials, and Asbestos textile industry. A
 - ii) people residing in the vicinity of the industry as at (i) above.
 - iii) the unorganized sector/small scale industries.
 - iv) end users.

(c) The terms of the study will be as follows and as detailed in the proposal dated 22nd June, 2005 submitted by NIOH to this Ministry.

(i) **Methodology:-** An environmental as well as epidemiological study will be carried out involving the workers of the representative organization of the aforesaid industries. An assessment of the population residing around these factories will also be undertaken.

(ii) **Environmental Study:-** Fiber concentrations in the workplaces as well as in the vicinity of the factories will be evaluated.

(iii) **Epidemiological Study:-**

(a) **Study setting:-** This study will be undertaken in different representative industries of the above said sectors. Representative samples of population residing in the vicinity of these industries will be included in this study.

(b) **Sample size:-** A total of 1500 subjects will be included in this study as the study subjects.

(c) **Study parameters:-** Every individual subject will be interviewed with a pre-designated questionnaire to collect information in relation to personal, occupational and morbidity details of the workers. Lung function test will be carried out in all subject. All the study subject will be evaluated by radiological examination as per ILO guidelines.

(iv) **Statistical analysis:-** Collected data will be analyzed by using Epi Info 6 and SPSS 6.1.4 software.

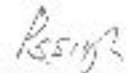
2. The total duration of conducting the study is 4 years. After submitting the draft report, NIOH will organize a national workshop to discuss the findings with the relevant industry stakeholders and based on the feedback the final report would be prepared.

3. The total cost of the study, inclusive of the manpower involvement, cost towards environmental and medical examination, TA/DA, Contingency and Intellectual fees, would be Rs.59.66 lakhs (Rupees Fifty nine lakh sixty six thousands) only. The payment schedule would be as indicated below:-

- i) 50% at the start of the project.
- ii) 30% on completion of field visit
- iii) 20 % after submission of the final report.

- 4. The Government will contribute Rs.43.86 lakhs and The Asbestos Cement Product Manufacturers Association(ACPMA) would contribute Rs.18.00 lakhs towards the total cost of the study.
- 5. The deliverables will include generation of data which would justify the safe standards of its usage as also the reasons/rationale justifying its non-inclusion/ or otherwise in the PIC ambit. The study will also take into account the Supreme Court directives if any.
- 6. You are requested to prepare and send the draft MOU for approval in this regard.
- 7. The sanction for release of the first instalment towards the cost of the study is being issued separately.
- 8. You may please go ahead with the study project.

Yours faithfully,



(P.S.Singh)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel:23070712

E-mail.usc.cpc@sb.nic.in

No.40018/26/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

New Delhi, the 11th January, 2007

To
✓ Ms. Madhumita Dutta,
42A, First Floor,
5th Avenue, Besant Nagar,
Chennai-600090.
Ph.09444390240

Subject: Request for Information under Right To Information Act, 2005 regarding the project titled implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures-Study of Health hazards- Environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your dated 6.1.2007 on above mentioned subject. As requested copies of minutes of two meetings held so far in the matter are enclosed. As regards findings, documents of NIOH, the report on study by NIOH will be released after it is finalized.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(P. S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel.23070712

Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country – Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 19.12.2006.

A meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) to discuss various issues relating to the study of health / environment hazards resulting from Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country in terms of the provisions of Rotterdam Convention by NIOH. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. Welcoming participants the Chairperson briefly explained the developments since the last meeting of the Review Committee. She informed that the final decision on inclusion of Chrysotile Asbestos in PIC ambit will be taken in the Conference of States Parties which will be held in late 2008. For these reasons she stressed on the importance of completion of the study before that. It was advised by her that the study needs to be completed by 31st March, 2008 so that it could be examined and submitted in time for due consideration by PIC Secretariat. ✓

3. Dr. Asim Saha who was representing NIOH informed about the progress of the study. It was intimated by him that they have completed their Calcutta study and the same indicates that the asbestos levels are below national / international norms. It was further intimated that while the Factory Act prescribes the norms of one fibre per cc. The industry norms permissible by Ministry of Environment and Forests in operation were .1 fibre per cc. He will be submitting the detailed report with conclusions to the Department within one week. It was also informed by Dr. Saha that

friction material component of the asbestos industry was much larger than originally envisaged. Besides it was informed by him that there were a number of units operating in unorganized sector of textile industry which do not form part of the small scale sector industry also. This is a minuscule segment as 99% consumption of the chrysotile Asbestos in the country is by the asbestos sheets, pipes, friction lining and gasket segments which form part of organized sectors of the industry.

4. It was advised by the industry that for the purpose of arriving at a fair conclusion the sampling of normal population (i.e. other than those directly involved in the manufacturing industry should also be included (say about 10%). This was suggested for the reason to have a fair justification for attributing an infliction specially to asbestos exposure of workers.

5. After detailed discussions the following decisions were taken

- i) NIOH will analyse and submit its report by 31st March, 2008 as per the schedule of activities to be undertaken as enclosed. The report will be finalized after due discussions with the asbestos industry.
- ii) For facilitating early submission of the report NIOH will make an effort to undertake the same preferably at the sites where adequate number of workers, industrial units and people residing in vicinity and localities where people are residing in houses with asbestos sheets.
- iii) The next field study will be undertaken at Hyderabad.
- iv) The report finalized by NIOH with reference to the Calcutta study will be submitted to the Department within a week.

- v) The sampling and medical and surveillance will be with reference to WHO / ILO guidelines.
- vi) The asbestos industry will facilitate timely completion of the study by providing support in the form of manpower / logistics etc. as required.
- vii) The study will cover only the legal bonafide chrysotile usage by industry.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 14.9. 2006.

A meeting was held on 14th September, 2006 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) to discuss various issues relating to the study of health / environment hazards resulting from Chrysotile Variety of Asbestos in the country in terms of the provisions of Rotterdam Convention by NIOH. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. Welcoming participants the Chairperson briefly explained the developments since the last meeting of the Review Committee. She informed that detailed para-wise comments on the Decision Guidance Document on Chrysotile Asbestos have been received from the Asbestos Industry Association. The same were circulated. She stressed on the need for early submission of Preliminary results of the study, which could found the basis of India's stand in the Conference of State Parties, which is scheduled to take place in October, 2006.

3. Thereafter she invited Dr. Salyed, Director, NIOH to make a presentation on the progress of the study. The presentation related to the study being undertaken by NIOH in Everest Industries Ltd. at their Kolkata Works. The same involved a sample of 300 workers out of which 288 actually participated

4. The presentation covered the objectives of the study methods under use, the hazards faced by the workers, distribution of workers according to the work in the industry as also the radiological findings.

a) The preliminary findings indicated the following:

- There were no complaints related to respiratory system
- About 32% of the workers showed Impaired lung functions.
The major abnormality was restrictive type.
- Prevalence of PFT restrictive type of impairment was correlated with duration of work and smoking habit.
- Largest number of cases of restrictive impairment were found in non smokers.

b) It was further informed that as a further course of action the NIOH will be undertaking

- Comparison of chest X-rays and PFT with previous records of the workers.
- In depth investigation of the suspected cases. *UK*
- Comparison of abnormalities with controls.

c) It was also informed that the industry where study has so far taken place, has instituted a number of protective measures to control the work and environmental hazards due to asbestos and other hazardous substances. The work environment survey also indicates that the usage of asbestos fibre levels are below the national and international prescribed norms and that the present environment conditions are not likely to pose any occupational health problem to the workers. It was informed by Dr. Salyed of NIOH that PFT and radiological findings need further investigation for correct interpretation of the preliminary findings.

5. After detailed discussions the following decisions were taken.

i) Details of cause for impaired lung functions of 32% of workers in the location of Everest Industries Ltd. needed to be detailed further for the benefit of the study immediately and report on the same be sent before the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of State Parties.

- i) Further study in the same segment (asbestos sheet) will be undertaken by NIOH at another location preferably at Indore or Hyderabad to give an alternate data for a different climatic zone.
- ii) NIOH will check the usage standards with reference to international norms. The Asbestos Industry Association will provide in tabular form the status of usage prescribed over a period of time.
- iii) The next phase of the study will cover the sheet and textile sectors which will be followed by the Pipe Sector.
- iv) NIOH will provide road map and time lines for submitting preliminary conclusions on the on going study, which could be submitted during the forthcoming Conference of State Parties. This will be submitted by NIOH within 10 days.

List of Participants

1. Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director, Deptt. of C&PC.
2. Shri Jasbir Singh, Industrial Advisor (Chemicals), Deptt. of C&PC.
3. Dr. H.N. Saiyed, Director, NIOH
3. Dr. Asim Saha, NIOH
4. Shri O.P. Jagotiya, Managing Director, Hyderabad Industries.
5. Shri M.L. Gupta, Managing Director, Everest Industries Ltd.
6. Shri S.A. Bhima Raja, President, Ramco Industries Ltd., Chennai.
7. Brig. A.K. Sethi, Executive Director, Association of Cement Products Manufacturers Association, New Delhi
8. Dr. G. Vivekanand, Visaka Industries Ltd.
9. Shri A.K. Saraf, Managing Director, UAL Industries Ltd., Kolkata.
10. Mr. Satyen Patel.
11. Dr. L.J. Bhagai, NIOH
12. Dr. Y.K. Sharma, NIOH.
13. Shri P.S. Singh, Under Secretary, D/o C&PC.

No.44018/26/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated the 27th December, 2007

To
Ms. Madhumita Dutta,
42 A (FF), 5th Avenue,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai-600 090.

Subject: Request for information under Right To Information Act,
2005.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 28th November, 2007 requesting for information under RTI Act 2005. On the issue of the Study of health hazards and environmental hazards resulting from the use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country, I am directed to forward the following:

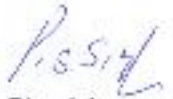
- i) Minutes of the meeting of the Review Committee held on 18th April, 2007 (Annex.I).
- ii) Minutes of the meeting of the Review Committee held on 24th July, 2007 (Annex.II).
- iii) Minutes of the meeting of the Review Committee held on 7th November, 2007 (Annex.III).

2. As regards your request for being provided with details of factories visited / health studies conducted by NIOH and the remaining studies to be conducted by NIOH, it is stated that after the study is completed and the report is finalized the same will be shared with all concerned including yourself.

3. As regards your request for inspection of the files relating to the study it may be stated here that the Central Information Commission vide its Decision No.588/IC (A)/2007 dated 8th March, 2007 had allowed for such an inspection of the project details to be

undertaken within a period of one month. It may be pointed out here that this facility was not availed of.

Yours faithfully,



(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel.23070712

Copy to: Shri Kailash Nath, JIA, Information Facilitation Centre

No.40018/9/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

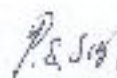
400
(Annex I)

New Delhi, the 4th May, 2007.

Subject: Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country – Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 18.04.2007.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the review meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Ms.Harmeet S.Singh, Director, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on the above subject for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above


(P.S.Singh)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
23070712

To

As per list attached.

Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country – Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 18.04.2007.

A meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Harmmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) to review the progress made by NIOH on various issues relating to the study of health / environment hazards resulting from Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country in terms of the provisions of Rotterdam Convention by NIOH. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. Welcoming ^{the} participants, the Chairperson stressed the importance of completion of the study well in time for consideration by the Chemical Review Committee in its meeting in early 2008. She emphasized the need for completion of the study and submission of the final report prior to the CRC meeting which is scheduled to be held from 10th March, 2008. Regarding information sought under RTI Act, NIOH was advised to appropriately handle such cases. It was suggested that while general information relating to the study can be provided, however, piecemeal results of the study will not give real picture and therefore details of the study cannot be shared till the study report is finalized. // She specifically sought to know the action taken by NIOH on the decision taken in the last meeting. In the report of M/s Everest Industries Kolkatta, 32% PFT abnormalities had been reported. NIOH was requested to incorporate scientific justification for the abnormalities and indicate whether abnormalities are due to absorption of asbestos or due to some other factors supported with scientific reasoning.



सत्यमेव जयते

No.40018/9 / 2005-C.I.I
Dated the 17th June , 2005

To,
Director
National Institute of Occupational Health
P.B. No.2031, Meghani Nagar,
Ahmedabad-380 016 (Fax: 0792686361)

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
रसायन और पेट्रोकेमिकल विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS
शास्त्री भवन, डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड,
शास्त्री भवन, डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड,
नई दिल्ली-११० ००५
NEW DELHI-110005

Subject: **Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2005**-Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures - Study of Health Hazards / on Prior Informed Consent Procedures - Study of Health Hazards /Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June, 2005 on the above subject for information and necessary action.

Encl: Minutes.

Yours faithfully,

(P.S. Singh)
(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel.23070712/Fax-23073050
e-mail :usc.cpc@sb.nic.in

Copy to :

1. Dr. I. J. Bhagia, NIOH.
2. Dr. A. Saha, NIOH.
3. Brig. A. K. Sethi, ACPMA.
4. Shri M. L. Gupta, AIC/ACPMA.

Internal Circulation:

1. Director (C)
2. IA (Chemicals).
3. DIA (Chemicals).

Encl: Minutes.

5/3/05
17/6/05

3. It was informed that population at vicinity of Kolkatta site (M/s Everest Industries) was not available for sampling purposes. It was advised by Sh.Ganesan of ICC that any study which was not done extensively and which was not subjected to a proper peer review will not be acceptable at the international level. It was advised that the same has to be undertaken as per WHO protocols. The same was confirmed by Dr.Tiwari, representative of NIOH.

4. Thereafter Dr.Tiwari of NIOH made a presentation on the studies undertaken by them at M/s Western India, Silvassa, who manufacture asbestos cement sheets. This is a ten year old unit which has engaged 60 workers. The mean age of the workers was 27 years and mean duration of the job was 4.5 years. It was informed by him that the results of the study indicated that

- Asbestos fibre level were below the national/International norms. The fibre concentration was 0.0077 to 0.011 fibre/ml.
- PFT abnormality was observed in 6.8% of the samples. No worker was found to have restrictive type of pulmonary impairments. The abnormality was of obstructive type.

5. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken.

- i) NIOH will make efforts for early conclusion of the study. Industry will facilitate the same by providing assistance in the form of manpower / logistics etc. as required.
- ii) The report will be finalized after due discussions with the asbestos industry, taking into account the WHO protocol including peer review. It will specifically indicate as to how technology has made working conditions better. The same

- will include relevant photographs showing protective measures being undertaken.
- iii) Sh.S.Ganesan of ICC and NIOH representative will re-draft/re-word the Kolkatta report keeping in view the international sensitivities.
 - iv) There will be a further follow up to the Kolkatta study for any asbestos linkage to abnormalities.
 - v) Health records of the workers as available with the industry will be made available.
 - vi) The next field study will be undertaken at Hyderabad and Chennai and the same will be pre-poned by about two months to facilitate early completion of the study.
 - vii) Industry will consider facilitating a study on socio-economic aspects of chrysotile asbestos usage.
 - viii) In terms of the information sought under RTI Act, it was decided that while generic information could be provided, the results of the study which was underway could not be shared till the same was finalized.
 - ix) The report "Understanding Chrysotile Asbestos: A New Perspective Based Upon Current Data" by D.M.Bernstein, as provided by the Industry will be made available to NIOH. Industry will make available similar relevant reports to NIOH.
 - x) Next review meeting will be held on 13.07.2007 at 1430 hours at the same venue.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

396

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Subject: Meeting to review the progress of study by NIOH on Chrysotile Asbestos by NIOH - held on 18.04.2007

S.No.	Name	Organisation	Signature
1.	M.L. Gupta	Everest Industries Ltd	[Signature]
2.	D.P. Sanyal	Chairman, Asbestos Information Centre	[Signature]
3.	DR. RR TIWARI	M.D., Hyderabad Industries Ltd NIOH, AHMEDABAD	[Signature]
4.	BRIG A K Sethi	ACPM, Gandhinagar	[Signature]
5.	Dr. Vivek Chandra Rao	G.M., Hyderabad Industries Ltd	[Signature]
6.	Jagan Mohan	ICCA	[Signature]
7.	S. Ganeshan	Indian Chemical Council	[Signature]
8.	Dal (Ch)		
9.	DR (PRB)		
10.	US (Ch)		
11.			
12.			

(Amex-11)
506

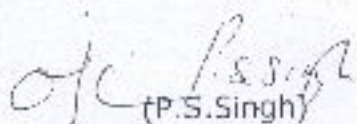
No.40018/9/2005-Ch.I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

New Delhi, the 14th September, 2007.

Subject: Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures - Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country - Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 24.07.2007.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the review meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Ms.Harmeet S.Singh, Director, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on the above subject for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.


(P.S.Singh)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
23070712

To

As per list attached.

Copy for internal circulation:

1.JS(KCM)/Director (C)/IA(Chemicals)/DIA(PRB)

Handwritten: Usaid

Handwritten: 17/9/07

Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures - Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country - Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 24th July, 2007. 505

A meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) to discuss various issues relating to the study of health / environment hazards resulting from Chrysotile Variety of Asbestos in the country in terms of the provisions of Rotterdam Convention by NIOH. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. Welcoming all the participants, the Chairperson explained the importance and need for timely completion of the study and its importance in relation to the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention on PIC. She invited the representatives of NIOH to inform about the progress of the study.
3. Dr. R.R. Tiwari of NIOH explained that they have completed the study at Vapi, Gujarat. A presentation on this study was made. It was informed that this facility is about 15 years old. 70 workers were examined. The medical examination of the workers had been undertaken and the same indicated that the chrysotile asbestos levels are much below the permitted levels. It was informed that 3% abnormality levels had been noticed, the detailed reasoning of which are being investigated.
4. Environmental monitoring was also undertaken at different locations viz. fibre feeding, calender machine, cutting/ finishing, near godowns. The fibre level was found to be 0.010 to 0.06 fibre per ml. In pulmonary function test, Koch's infection (Right upper Zone) were

observed in two workers. One of them had right sided pleural effusion also. The following conclusions were drawn:-

- i) Fibre level in all work places were below national and international standards.
- ii) 11.4% workers were having obstructive disorder, 2.9% restrictive abnormality and rests were normal.
- iii) No worker was found to have radiographic features suggestive of interstitial lung fibrosis.

5. The Chairperson enquired about the action taken on the issue of PFT abnormality as indicated in the report on M/s Everest Industries, Kolkatta as discussed in the last meeting held on 18.04.2007. It was informed that NIOH will take up the matter.

6 It was further informed that NIOH will next undertake the study at Hyderabad and intimated that they are ready in all respects for undertaking the study at M/s Vishakha Industries involving sheets and pipes segments. It was informed that the parameters of the study will be based on usage and risk parameters. NIOH will cover end users also as part of the study. They will also cover the socio-economic dimension aspects in their report.

7. It was further informed that the field visits as part of the study will be over by the end September, 2007. Thereafter analysis of data will be undertaken and that will take about a month. Thereafter NIOH will be ready with its draft report. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Review Committee after Diwali.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

503

List of participants

1. Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals)
2. Shri Jasbir Singh, Industrial Advisor (Chemicals)
3. Shri P.S. Singh, Under Secretary (Chemicals)
4. Shri P.R. Bulsara, DIA (Chemicals)
5. Dr. L.J.Bhagia, NIOH
6. Dr. Asim Saha, NIOH
7. Dr. R.R.Tiwari, NIOH
8. Dr.Dinesh Thakare, Everest Industries.
9. Shri O.P.Jagotiya, Chairman ACPHA and MD, Hyderabad Ind,
10. Shri Venkat Ratnam, President, Visaka Ind, Hyderabad.
11. Brig A.K. Sethi, Asbestos Cement Manufacturers Association

No 40018/9/2005-Ch I
Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

532
Annex III

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: the 16th November, 2007

Sub: Rotterdam Convention - the issue of Chrysotile Study by NIOH on Health and Environmental Hazards - review meeting held on 7th November, 2007 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - Minutes regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the review meeting held under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Harneet Singh, Director, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals on the issue of Chrysotile Study by NIOH on Health and Environmental Hazards on 16th November, 2007 for kind perusal and necessary action.

P.S. Singh

(P.S. Singh)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele - 91 11 23070712 / Fax - 91 11 23389361
e-mail - usc.cpo@sp.nic.in

Encl. as above

To,

1. Dr. Saroj, Additional Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests
2. Shri D.P. Jageltya, Chairman, ACPMA and Managing Director, Hyderabad industries Ltd
3. Brig. A.K. Sethi, Executive Director, Association of Cement Products Manufacturers Association, New Delhi
4. Dr. R.R. Tiwari, SRO, NIOH, Ahmedabad
5. Dr. S.P. Vivek Chandra Rao, GM, (Occ. Health), Hyderabad industries Ltd
6. Shri M.L. Gupta, Managing Director, Everest Industries Ltd.
- 8.

Internal circulation

Dir(Chem) / IA(Chem) / DIA (PR)

Guard file

Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country - Minutes of the Review Meeting held on 7th November, 2007.

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) to discuss various issues relating to the study of health / environment hazards resulting from Chrysotile Variety of Asbestos in the country by NIOH. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. Welcoming all the participants, the Chairperson invited the representative of NIOH to briefly explain the results of field visits undertaken by NIOH as part of study. Dr. R.R. Tiwari of NIOH explained that they have completed all the field visits, the latest being at Hyderabad. During field visits they had covered both the community and end users. It was specifically intimated that 404 community subjects near Vishakha Industries had been studied and compared in the recent field study.

3. To the specific query from Ms. Harmeet S. Singh, Director that whether the Institute had covered sample size of 1500 subjects as originally planned in the project proposal and in terms of WHO guidelines. Dr. Tiwari mentioned that they had not been able to get field sample size of 600 community workers as originally planned but had appropriately covered the factory workers for proper results. The coverage of the balance subjects would also be looked up by NIOH to ensure that the mandatory number of subjects are covered as per WHO guidelines. Presently the Institute was studying the results

collected during the field results and this exercise was expected to take about 2 months after which they will be ready to submit the preliminary report which could be finalized after due discussions with various stakeholders. It was informed by the industry associations that they are taking necessary follow up action on the four cases which had been detected by NIOH and are suspected cases of interstitial fibrosis during the study of Everest Industries, Kolkata.

4. After detailed discussions, the following decisions were taken.
- (i) NIOH will check about the need for sample size of 1500 workers with reference to WHO guidelines and ensure compliance.
 - (ii) The interim report will be made ready by NIOH by end January 2008. NIOH will also organize a peer review of the report.
 - (iii) The asbestos industry will facilitate undertaking of study on socio economic impact of Chrysotile usage. The Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals will facilitate the same, if required.
 - (iv) The asbestos industry will formulate the proposal for organizing a meeting of interested State parties so as to formulate a coordinated stand on the usage of Chrysotile Asbestos in early February. In this meeting important chrysotile asbestos producing and consuming countries will be invited so as to evolve a consensus.

5. The next meeting of the Review Committee will be held in end January, 2008. (NIOH has requested that the meeting be held on Monday).

0.5

Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards / Environment Hazardous resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country by NIOH - Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June, 2005

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Director (Chemicals) to examine various issues relating to the study to be taken by NIOH on the above mentioned subject. The list of participants is enclosed. Welcoming all participants, Ms Harmeet S. Singh, Director (Chemicals) informed that a proposal has been received from NIOH for undertaking the study. This study is required in view of the on going developments under the Rotterdam Convention to bring this chemical in the PIC ambit which could impact this segment of the Indian chemical industry engaged in this activity. The study was required to establish the health / environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in Indian conditions. It was stressed that a thorough study impacting all the segments of the industry at the work place as also in the vicinity and the unorganized sectors was required so that India could take a stand on scientific basis in the next meeting of the Conference of State parties under the Rotterdam Convention. NIOH was specifically requested to expedite the conduction of the study.

2. It was explained by the representative of the industry that the organized sector consumed almost 90% of the Chrysotile asbestos in the country. They promised their whole-hearted support to the study. The need for covering the work place as also the vicinity was stressed.

List of Participants.

1. Miss Harmeet S. Singh, Director, C&PC Chairperson
2. Shri P.R. Bulsara, Dy. Industrial Adviser.
3. Shri P./S. Singh, Under Secretary (Chemicals)
4. Smt Jasbir Singh, IA (Chemicals)
5. Shri S. Ganesan, ICC
6. Shri M.L. Gupta, Everest Industries Ltd.
7. Brig A.K. Sethi, ACPMA, Ex-Director.
8. Dr. Vivek Chandra Rao, GM, Hyderabad Industries Ltd.
9. Dr. R.R. Tiwari, NIOH, Ahmedabad.
10. C.P. Jagetia, Chairman, Asbestos Information Centre.

3. It was explained by Dr. Saha on NIOH that various parameters for the study which include the sampling size was based upon international norms as approved by WHO. They will try to submit their report including the interim report at the earliest possible. After detailed deliberations the following decisions were taken.

(i) NIOH will prepare a revised proposal for undertaking a study with the following scope

- (a) Organized sector covering the four segments of the industry i.e. Asbestos cement industry manufacturing asbestos cement sheets; Asbestos cement industry manufacturing asbestos cement pipes; Asbestos industry manufacturing asbestos containing friction materials; and Asbestos textile industry.
- (b) People residing in the vicinity of the industry as at (a) above.
- (c) The unorganized sector / small scale industries
- (d) End users.

(ii) The study will commence covering (a) & (b) of (i) above. This will be followed by (c) & (d) above.

(iii) While initiating the study NIOH will first cover the industry segments as per the following sequences.

(A) Roofing sheets and friction material sector-in the first instances.

(B) AC Pipes and Textile Sector-in the second instance.

(iv) The asbestos industry will make available the scientific data relating to effect of usage of Chrysotile of human health and environment as

*Copy of
NIOH revised
proposal*

*convert cross sectional study partially
5 yrs. study period
min-15 yrs
1 carbon
> 5, 6-9, 10-14
12-
30
ft.*



available with them to the Department for submission to the Chemical Review Committee under PIC Convention. ✓ C.5

(v) NIOH will submit a revised proposal for undertaking study within a period of three days after the scope of the study is intimated to them.

(vi) Industry will take action for immediate release of their contribution to NIOH for early start of the study and provide as assistance to facilitate the study.

25

List of participants

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
1.	Ms.Harmeet S.Singh, Director(Chemicals).
2.	Shri Jasbir Singh, Industrial Adviser(Chemicals).
3.	Shri P.S.Singh, Under Secretary(Chemicals).
4.	Shri P.R.Bulsara, DIA(Chemicals).
5.	Dr. L.J.Bhagia, NIOH.
6.	Dr. A.Saha, NIOH.
7.	Brig. A.K.Sethi, ACPMA.
8.	Shri M.L.Gupta, AIC/ACPMA.

Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Now Delhi, the 13th December, 2006

20 December 2006

To,
Ms. Madhumita Dutta,
H-19/4 Gangai Street,
Kalakshetra Colony,
Besant Nagar,
Chennai-600 090.

Subject: Request for information under Right To Information Act,
2005

Madam,

Please refer to your letter dated 3rd November 2006 in relation to the study of health hazards - environment hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country. Please find enclosed the following documents:

- i) A copy of the revised proposal dated 22nd June, 2005 received from NIOH
- ii) Terms of Reference of the study / scope of the study as detailed in the Work Order dated 24th April, 2006.
- iii) NIOH will be undertaking the study in consultation with various concerned stakeholders and will also be visiting the Industrial units using chrysotile asbestos.

Yours faithfully,



(P.S. Singh)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel.230/0712

Encl: as above.

① Shri Kailash Nath, Facilitation Officer
D/o C&PC

② Correl letter.

Used at
14/12

Ref. Telegram
Copy of proposal etc
22.06.2005 is attached.

Ms. M. Dutta
Chennai - 600090

P.S. Singh
20/12/06



राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
(WHO Collaborative Centre for Occupational Health & ILO Participating Institute)
(Indian Council of Medical Research)

P.B. No. 2031, Meghani Nager, Ahmedabad-380 010, India

Ref No. NIOH/Hyg/Proj/05 / 112.5

Date: 22nd June 2005

F. S. Singh
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
Srastrī Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

By SPEED POST

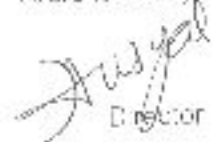
Subject: Implementation of Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures – Study of Health Hazards/Environment Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the country.

Dear sir,

This has a reference of your letter No 40018/9/2005-Ch1 dated 16th June 2005 regarding above mentioned subject. Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the revised proposal for undertaking the study on "An Environmental cum Epidemiological survey in and around Chrysotile Asbestos based industries" as requested by you.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully


Director

Encl. As above